

Tape #58

JENNIE NOEL WEEKS

Interviewed by Elizabeth Sowards, 1984.

The thing that we did when we fixed the book was to kind of show Mother's side of it and Dad's side of it. Then we took the...

Liz: Now, you start with your name and tell where you were born and then like I told you.

Weeks: Ok. Is it started already? Well, this story is about the Frank Leland Noel family that came from Fruitland to Mexico up to Vernal, Utah. Dad was from Virginia and had come into New Mexico with his older brother because of t.b. He met Mother there who was the daughter of Orivil Clark Roberts and Mary Noelton Corey, they had eight children and she was in the middle. They were married and lived in Vernal, first on the reservation, the Indian reservation at the Two Gray Hills Trading Post.

Liz: Now, where was that?

Weeks: In San Juan County, New Mexico, then after we were, I believe five in number, after we had five children in the family, they moved out to San Austy and that was 20 miles south of Shiprock on the road to Gallup. We lived there until 1915 when we moved into Farmington, New Mexico for school for the children. We had been having private teachers out at the trading post, and Mother felt that the children had to have more social life and get where she could take us to church. We had been having our own little Sunday Schools.

Liz: Now, you were LDS by your father?

Weeks: My father wasn't LDS, but my mother was and had been raised LDS so we were all raised LDS, we were all baptized into the church at the age of eight as we should have been. We moved then from Saint Austy up to Farmington. The same year when we went up to Farmington, Mother and Dad went to California to the Panama Exposition and had a wonderful time. We were in the Farmington school, Clara and I, and it was the first time that I had ever mingled with children of my own age since I was five years old. So it was quite a new experience for me and I had a wonderful time. We had our Sunday School in Farmington then we went back to Fruitland, Kirtland, really, New Mexico and Dad was interested in more school than they had in that area, so he donated the land if they would build a high school. They did start building. We were there only another year. We went to that school one year and then Mother's brother,

Frank Roberts, had come up to Vernal and he kept writing letters telling us what a beautiful country it was and how productive it was. They had cattle and everything that Dad loved and wanted him to come up and look it over. So finally Dad did come up and he fell in love with this whole county, but particularly the Kabell place. Now the Kabell place was about three miles from Vernal and it was settled by a Mr. Kabell from the East, but he died and his sons were wanting to get rid of the place. So they were offering it for sale.

Liz: Where was it located, I'm not quite sure?

Weeks: Oh, northeast of Vernal. It's out towards the foothills.

Liz: Into Ashley area?

Weeks: Yes, it was in Ashley Ward. It was past the Ashley Creek. Then we would go out probably a mile past that and then it was just, well the whole place, there was over 300 acres. Dad could see that it would produce good livelihood with cattle and alfalfa and things that would be available. So he wanted it and especially did he want it because it was a lovely home and it was built out in a circle of trees and on all around it and it reminded him of his Essox County Virginia home where they had been out on a plantation of 1000 acres. He wanted to get his family out as he had been raised and so made every effort to get the down payment for this place and to get credit so he could buy the property. They finally succeeded in making the arrangements and business deal that they needed to and we moved on to the Kabell place. To me it was a wonderful home. I had never lived in a two story home. In our Saint Austy home on the reservation it had a house that had been partial cave. The bedrooms were all built of course, but they were back in the hill.

Liz: Like the hole-in-the-rock house?

Weeks: Yes, something of that sort. They were nice big rooms and everything, they were flat rooms, we didn't have any upstairs or anything of that sort. After we moved on to the Kabell place, they had the terrible flood down Ashley Creek the next year and it washed out the bridges. We had to go around to other roads three or four miles to get into town.

Liz: That would have been 1918 then?

Weeks: 1917, we moved in, but it was 1918 they had the flood. At this time, they were beginning also to have this terrible flu epidemic. My sister and I had gone to the high school for one half session, I guess just a few months when the flu came in such terrible way that Dad just put a lock on the front gate. He wouldn't let anyone in, he wouldn't let anyone out. So I taught school in our home for the younger children and we just hibernated one whole winter and stayed away from town. We did miss having the flu. There were people had died everywhere, old and young. The schools had been closed. It was a terrible winter for the Vernal area.

Liz: You must have had a good supply of food so you didn't have to go out and get anything. Or did he go out and get it?

Weeks: I think he went out twice during the year. But we did, we had our own food, that's what he was thrilled about. The place we had our own chickens and guinea hens and even our pigs and sheep and cattle and everything that we needed in the line of a garden was there. We had raised a good garden and we just didn't need to go out. We got by and missed that terrible, terrible flu.

Liz: Tell me about the house, and you said it was two-story, what was it like, I've never been in it.

Weeks: It was a brick house and it had stained glass windows at the front. There was a little vestibule kind of a porch that we went up on one side and then out standing out to the side of that was the front room and our living room. It had these stained glass windows. Then the floor above had stained glass windows. So it was a very beautiful home to drive up to. It was fixed very well inside. They had woodwork and everything, it was beautiful. The stairway was carved wood and everything was lovely.

Liz: You didn't have water in the house then, did you?

Weeks: There wasn't water in the house, we had to haul our water in a barrel until Dad got a cistern built. He immediately built a cistern for us then we had water that we could pump into the house.

Liz: You wouldn't have had electricity either?

Weeks: No, we had lamps. There wasn't electricity anywhere then.

Liz: You pumped by gasoline engine to pump your water in?

Weeks: No, we pumped the water by hand.

Liz: Oh, I see what you mean.

Weeks: We thought that was quite wonderful after all!

Liz: Oh yes, every step up helps. It improves when you go up to a cabin on the mountain, you kind of go back a few, you don't have any dishwasher, any microwave, sometimes you have water and sometimes you don't.

Weeks: Mostly don't. The house was large enough for Mother's family of nine by now. We raised the crops. I can remember helping Dad cut the hay and harvest the grain. I can remember helping Mother with the bees. The orchard, we put up our own fruit.

Liz: Had they already planted the orchard when you were there?

Weeks: Yes, it was already there when we got there.

Liz: So it was really quite a good place for you.

Weeks: It was just nice to move on to. It just made it real home-like. We enjoyed it, we loved it. They had an icehouse, it was full of sawdust. In the winter, they would go up to the Calder Pond and cut the ice and haul it down with the team and wagon and put it in this icehouse and cover it with sawdust. Then we would have ice all summer, we used to have ice cream, anything we wanted any time we wanted because this ice was right there. We could hang meat in there and keep it cold. Dad used to kill enough meat in the winter to do us until the next summer when we would have our chickens and things of that sort, turkeys.

Liz: Did he bring the talent or ability to cure the ham from Virginia with him? Did he know how to do that?

Weeks: Yes. On his place in Virginia, they had a regular smoke house. Yes, he had been trained to work and to do things and he knew exactly what he wanted and how to do it. He would run the cattle up on the

mountain in the summertime and then we would feed them hay in the wintertime. Clara and I would ride to school in a buggy.

Liz: Where did you go to school when you go to Vernal?

Weeks: We went up to the Uintah High School. It was Uintah Academy then.

Liz: Did you think that was a pretty good school, compared to the ones you were going to in New Mexico?

Weeks: They were about the same.

Liz: You were going to tell me a while ago, and I interrupted you, you said after you came it washed the Ashley Creek flooded and washed everything out and had you had to go around to get to town. You probably had another thought about that and I interrupted.

Weeks: We went to church, we went up into the Ashley Ward. In order to get to town, we would have to take the church road and go clear up to the Siddoway Lane and then come down across that bridge where Siddoway's were until they built another bridge. After the flood went down, they built a road across it for a year or two, we had to just cross the water, drive through the water. We had come up in a Buick car, that was one of the happy times that I had was driving this old Buick. We would sometimes go to school in this Buick. That was a lot of fun because the other girls didn't have Buicks. We wouldn't have done if we hadn't have been coming up the way we were traveling. It was a lot of fun to have a car and to go up to school.

Liz: I guess there were a lot of horses, there were still horses and teams on the road then.

Weeks: Oh there was a lot of them.

Liz: When you drove a car you had to be extra careful, I suppose.

Weeks: We had one old horse that we would drive. When the children were driving this horse, he'd go just right along the road and never bother a bit. But if a man was driving him, he would shy and rare when a car would come and act like he was scared. We had a lot of fun with that old horse. In the main,

we drove the horses. The boys would ride horseback. It was quite a different experience for us. I can remember one morning when we went to the school and I came up and saw tracks around the corner of the block that didn't have horse tracks in it. I couldn't figure it out for a little while. Then I remembered that my car didn't make tracks either. You can tell there were more horses than there were cars around Vernal at that time.

Liz: What was the shopping area like when you first came? What did you think of that, what was it like when you first came?

Weeks: By the time we got to Vernal, they had four nice stores. We had heard stories of the Adams Store and the Ashton Store starting and all of these things, but they were there by the time we got here. The Ashley Co-op was open.

Liz: What about the Big Elephant Store, was it still there, or had they put the bank in then?

Weeks: They had put the bank in. The bank was there. Also, the picture-show houses. In New Mexico, we had only been to one picture show in all our life. We had gone from Kirtland up to Farmington to go to the picture-show. That was 12 miles in a buggy and then after the show, had gone home at night. We were so excited about that picture-show we had seen, we were so thrilled that we got to see picture-shows up there. They had the Orpheus, it had been there for years. We had lovely dances in that. They had dances up over the, it's where the hotel is now, the Sage Hotel. They would dance up in the top floor of that.

Liz: What was that called then? Was that the Commercial for a while?

Weeks: It was Commercial Club or something wasn't it?

Liz: And that's where they had the dances?

Weeks: They had dances there.

Liz: There was the place, a hall over the hotel? There was a hall over the eating place?

Weeks: Yes.

Liz: I remember the Jorgensen's had the cafe.

Weeks: That was later. Before that they had this other. We used to go, they had a pavilion out where they would have their celebrations, then they had the fairs every year. We used to think it was fun for all of us to go to the fair. Dad always took us and he always saw to it that we had a dish of ice cream before we came home. When Mother would start into a drugstore where they served the ice cream with that mob of kids, by that time she had 12 kids or 13 kids by that time!

Liz: When you came in, I guess you'd have to bring a car and a wagon.

Weeks: The boys would ride their horses. We all got there and we all had fun and Dad always took us to the fair. We spent the day and celebrated.

Liz: Where would they hold the fair?

Weeks: At the beginning, it was right where the First Ward Chapel used to be where the hospital is now. They had that kind of a thing built around that that they would hold it in there. Then later, of course, it was down where it is now. They didn't have the thing built up for the seats.

Liz: You mean they had an arena over where the hospital is now?

Weeks: Well, it was just a, they would put up their tents and their show places. There wasn't any permanent building, no. They brought the first airplane in there. I thought it was wonderful to see this airplane. We all went up to see that and talk about it. Otis asked me if I'd like to have a ride. My goodness, imagine being the only girl in school to have a ride in the first airplane! So thrilled.

Liz: Did you do it?

Weeks: Yes, we went for a ride. I remember Pontha Calder and his wife went. I don't know who some of the others were, but I was so thrilled to think I got up to see that. I saw the Green River and all of that valley, it was such a revelation to me to see. Get up in the air and look down on the earth. I thought I was just really doing something wonderful. It really was something wonderful.

Liz: Could see everyone's farm? I bet you could see your home, did you see your home?

Weeks: Yes, we flew right over it. It was a wonderful experience. Then we used to have parades. The parades were a big part of the celebrations. One year I was the Queen of the Bees. We had beehives on our float. The floats of course at that time were hayracks, one of the large hayracks that they would load their hay on. We would cover them with cloth and different things and make beautiful floats out of them. This time we had some beehives on them and I was a bee and I had my wings and my mosquito netting dress. It didn't protect me from the sun. After the parade was over, I was in torture. I was burned and I think it peeled off about twice. Terribly burned. Anyway, that was an exciting day because that was when Otis decided that he wanted to go with me. He asked me to go up to that...

Liz: Was that when you first met him?

Weeks: No, it wasn't when I first met him, I had danced with him, and I knew him before. This time we decided to go together. I was going to go steady now. But after that, I left and came to Salt Lake to go to school. I was out here for, let's see, I was out here nearly a full year.

Liz: Did you go to the U of U or...

Weeks: No, this was the LDS Business College. During this time, the war was going on and the boys were being taken out with the draft and some of them were coming back in caskets and it was quite an exciting time for a young girl to live in. It made me appreciate school, made me want to study about history and countries where these boys had been and everything. My sister married one of the boys that came back and hearing the stories about England and France and the war and crossing the ocean and everything, it was quite an education. We enjoyed our school there, Clara and I both graduated from the Academy, they called it. Then I got married the day I graduated. My dad wanted me to come out to school, and I suppose I should have done, that was young, I wasn't 20 yet. But I didn't, I got married the day I graduated and we started having our little family. So the next 20 years were taken up with moving hither dither and yon. Otis was a cattle commissioner and he would go and come where he needed to keep his business going. He had put himself through school by being a barber.

Liz: Did he have to go into the war?

Weeks: He was signed up, he would have gone if the peace hadn't been signed just the day it was. He

would have been with the next draft but he didn't have to go. So he didn't get into the war. We were very happy about that. Let me tell you about the change in the town that I saw after we got there. When we first went there, there were two or three saloons in town. There was a rough element in town. We called them the cattlemen, but then my father bought cattle and ran cattle on the mountain and we soon found that they were perfectly fine gentlemen, only they just had a different lifestyle. We got acquainted with them and there was a Mr. Seeley that Mother and Dad enjoyed a great deal. He had a sweet wife and they had two girls and we used to enjoy these girls quite a bit. Our nearest neighbor, Mr. Karren, had boys. We enjoyed going up to the Ward and Mrs. Karren and Mother were both in the Mutual, they were the head of the Mutual and we would go up to the Sunday School for the Mutual and take our whole family with us. It was an exciting time. I look back at it now and wonder how Mother did it. I was a gardener, I used to help her raise her garden and a washer, I would do quite a bit of the washing. But I hated to do housework, and the other girls didn't like to get out and do the garden. I especially liked the garden in the fall when the watermelons were on. I would sneak a watermelon and eat the heart out of it and no one would ever know the difference. We would ride the horses and help with the cattle when we could. We never did go with the herd, the girls didn't, but we were there on the place and helped with the bum lambs.

Liz: That place is still out there, isn't it? It's that big house that's kind of out by itself.

Weeks: They've torn it down and built a new house, a smaller house.

Liz: It was a larger house at first, then?

Weeks: Oh yes, it was much larger.

Liz: How many bedrooms did it have?

Weeks: Three upstairs and two down. We had a little house that the Kabell people that were there before us that ran cattle and they had a what they called a bunk house out at the side. We used this for bedrooms. One summer we moved the kitchen out there and had a kitchen and dining room out there instead of in the house. It was quite a place.

Liz: When your parents died, did they live on that farm until they died?

Weeks: No, they lost the farm during the Depression.

Liz: I was going to ask you about the Depression, do you remember much about it?

Weeks: Yes, when the Hard Winter when the cattle froze in the field, and they had to pay more for hay than they had paid for the cattle to save them. The banker that held our mortgage refused to renew, and he would have had to have helped us with one year, he would have had to have loaned us money to carry through that next year. And he did with a lot of other places around, but he didn't do it for Dad, because he had a friend that wanted the house. So he refused to help, and Dad had wanted to sell the cattle and pay it, but he had advised against that. Then when they had to borrow to get the hay and the hay was more than the cattle was worth, it just made it so Dad could not make that payment and he wouldn't extend it a year. So they lost it and Mr. Herron took it over, and that's what was planned with him and Mr. Meagher.

Liz: He had had his loan with the Bank of Vernal then?

Weeks: Yes, and ours wasn't the only one that he foreclosed on, but there were a lot that he didn't, he could have done, but he didn't, so that's what happened. And Dad and the family, I was married by this time and had two children, but Dad and the family moved up into Vernal in the old Rich place on the corner down by where the Vernal offices are now, down beyond that corner.

Liz: Rich Hotel?

Weeks: No, that's on the other end of town.

Liz: Oh Mary Freeman's father.

Weeks: Yes, so they moved into that house and Dad and the boys worked, that's the year that they planted beans and tried to, all of the town tried, what did they put up, a canning outfit or some kind of a co-op thing over on the other side of town that they worked with, I know.

Liz: Did they use Jake Workman's dance hall for the cannery?

Weeks: Yes. So they would go around and work the ground and harvest the crops and things for the people. They did pretty good, they made pretty good. Then Dad ran for County Clerk and he got into

that position. After he got into that position, he was able to pay off every dime he had ever owed on anything, the place and everything else. That made him quite happy, but the boys had had to go out and find work. They had come out and gotten jobs with building the dam in Provo Canyon and places like that. Chad had gone to work in the mines. Doug, I think, went to work in the mines too. They had found work and Mother and Dad had lived, Mother had taught kindergarten. She had graduated in the BYU as a kindergarten teacher. She started a kindergarten class and she had a lovely little school for three or four years. This was just prior to Dad getting the Clerk. When he started that, it made it a lot easier for them. They moved into the old Calder place, the Orson Calder place down by where Alta lives now, down past where that big white house that was the Calder home. They moved there for many years, then they moved into the little place up on Main Street that Dad bought from Reed Ross and they lived there. But by that time, the highway had been put in and the town had spread out more, and there was a lot more business houses. During those years, there were a lot of changes in Vernal. I remember the year that we were there for 30 days, it was 30 degrees below 0. Otis and I moved around quite a bit because he was interested in different deals that would come and go. Sometimes he would be in Southern Utah and sometimes in Vernal and sometimes up on the mountains, so we have moved quite a little until we went into a place there on First North. We stayed there the rest of the time. We came out here after Mother and Dad had moved out...

Liz: They moved to Salt Lake?

Weeks: They moved to Draper. She became ill and I was the only one that was free to come and be with her, so Otis and I moved out here and that was 30 years ago and we have been here since.

Liz: I remember, that was when I first came. I had been here a couple of years when you moved. When I first came you still lived down in that northeast part of town.

Weeks: Yes, in that white house. That was when Mother was ill. They had gone to California before Mother had died just for her health. Donald had taken her down in the spring and she died in April.

Liz: What was it like during the Depression....

Weeks: It was the next year after she had gone down. She had been down in Orange, California for a year when she died.

Liz: What was it like during the Depression, most people say they had plenty to eat, but they didn't have money.

Weeks: Well, that was true. We had the cattle and the government was giving the people \$5 a head for their cattle. Just imagine cattle that had cost them around \$100 a calf was being given \$5 to kill the cattle by the government because of the draught and the conditions and the existence. At that time, I was in charge of the canning center for the church.

Liz: Where was it located?

Weeks: It was in the back of the school?

Liz: In back of Central School.

Weeks: Yes, you remember that brick building that was...

Liz: No, now was it where the Board of Education is or was it a separate building? Was it right on the corner?

Weeks: We had one big room of the Central School and the rest of it was in the Board of Education building, the office that they had. The canning material was in the one back room of the school, that long back room.

Liz: You know, they had a room, they had a furnace and they built on a furnace in a laboratory behind the original building. Do you remember that?

Weeks: That was it.

Liz: You used that part for canning?

Weeks: We had the canning operation there.

Liz: Then also over in the...

Weeks: They built this. It was about three years that they ran this. They built this the second year. The first year, I'm not right sure just when we changed around, but that was where the main canning was done was in the building that you mentioned where the furnace was. Karl Hines was the one that ran the machine that year.

Liz: He ran the cooker then.

Weeks: They would bring in these cattle, we'd cut off what meat was good and they would can it. That helped out a lot. Then we had fair crops, fruit crops that year. We did a lot of fruit canning.

Liz: Was this food, was it done by the church or county or who paid you?

Weeks: The church.

Liz: So you didn't get paid then, you probably just did it.

Weeks: Yes, I got paid \$75 for my whole summers work.

Liz: But that was probably helping.

Weeks: It was helping everybody and it was helping me. I had put up 1000 quarts of stuff myself that year, so that we had enough to live on. That's what people were doing, they were putting up what they could. We put up fish, they would go fishing and can the fish. We would can the corn and the vegetables. We just canned everything.

Liz: You, at that time, Alta would have been what two or three years old? Did your older girls watch her or how did you leave your family?

Weeks: Alta was older than that. Alta was born in '33 and Nolan was born in '35. They were in the first year of school, Nola was.

Liz: That would have been near the end of the '30's, then, wouldn't it, '38 or '39?

Weeks: I don't remember just what year it was.

Liz: If Alta was born in '33, to be going to school she would have to be five and that would put it '38, and if Noel was going to school, it would have been the '40's even.

Weeks: It was in the '40's, it was in '41 and '42 because we canned stuff to send to our soldier boys. We canned fruitcakes and puddings and things and send over to the boys. So it was in '41, '42, and '43 along in there.

Liz: That's interesting. I know that they said that Central School was built on WPA project. That's where the money came from to build the school.

Weeks: Right at the beginning, they had the WPA historical project, too and I worked at that time for the...I was with the county for half a year and then we got to start the social service work and they brought in the social service work and I was working with the county when the social service work started up. Then afterwards, I went with the social service work for a few years. This was all happening just right around that period of time when they were having the terrible depression and all the things that was going with it. I remember when Louise got married, when she got married, we couldn't get sugar, we were on sugar rations. I had to save up sugar to make her a wedding cake. It wasn't very big when I got it made.

Liz: You don't have any of those old ration books in your possession? I thought that would be nice to show, I'm trying to find some of those. I do have one in my possession of the, not of the ration books, but I have when we used to go to school, we would take a dime a week and we would buy a little red stamp to put in a saving bond, then after it got to the end of the year, you'd have enough to buy a bond. I have one of those books.

Weeks: When I left Vernal, I left these stored in my basement there, then when they opened up the house and moved into it, I told them to just get rid of the things...

SIDE TWO

Liz: My kids want me to clean out my house and throw away all the things I save...

Weeks: My kids tell me, too, but you can see over there how I stack it up. I was glad when I didn't throw

them away because about three years ago, one of the men down in the BYU archives heard that I had material for the Corey family. Grandmother Corey, my great-grandmother Corey was the only woman on the Trustee board for the BYU. So he came up and he asked me if I had any of those things. Luckily, my cousin, my mother's cousin, when she died they had given me her things. So I did have a lot of material for the Corey family. So we did set up a regular Corey file there in the archives. When they were talking about doing this, they asked me about my family and I told them about Dad wasn't a Mormon and Mother was a Mormon and how we had done and everything. This Professor Andrus said that the school was making a study of the Mormon culture, what Mormonism had done for Utah. He asked me if I had any old letters or records or histories of the family that it was a split family. Although it really couldn't be called a split family because Dad never fought the church in any way, shape, or form, he sent his kids on missions and he saw that Mother had a way to go church and he just did everything he could to help her out. He wasn't antagonistic at all. But it was different having a non-member father and a member mother, so he said he would like to get any of the early history of this family that he could. Well, I had, like I say, lost all my things in Vernal, but I did have everything that Mother had kept. She had all of her things and I was able to get those, well I had gotten them already in my possession. It was interesting, Mother had been a wonderful letter-writer, she just wrote the most wonderful letters to the kids. I would go around asking the kids if they, she'd have their answer to her letter. I'd go ask the children, "Did you keep the letters, Mother's letters?" and I wasn't able to find only a few of them. But I wanted them so much because even the answers were interesting, and these people thought they were, too. They were so interested in how the family had grown and the standards they'd kept and the ambitions they had and the work they had gone into and everything to show how the culture of a Mormon mother would influence here children. So we have a file down there on the Noel family as well as the Corey family.

Liz: I'll have to look at it.

Weeks: Yes, ask if they'd let you see it.

Liz: My sister-in-law, my brother's wife is working in the department now, she is in charge of those manuscripts and the different files.

Weeks: That's interesting, because they are there, they have I think about six boxes of the Corey's and about that for the Noel's.

Liz: Now do you spell that C-O-R-E-Y?

Weeks: Yes. Mother's history was very interesting. She had been raised in a Mormon family and when Dad came down, a gentile, they couldn't see her going with him and especially marrying him so she went to school and she got her education and they just wrote letters and all this time. She would come home in the summer-time and they'd fall in love again and they couldn't get married and so she'd come back. Oh, dear, it was too bad. She even went to the top of the church to the president of the church, President Snow, and asked him what to do. He told her to go ahead and get married but to have Dad join the church. And Dad went in to John R. Young, who was the stake president at that time down there, and asked for baptism. But when John R. found that he hadn't read the Book of Mormon yet and didn't know much about Mormonism, he didn't baptize him like the president told him to do. I think, had they have done, it would have worked out differently, but you can't say, we don't know, he didn't. So he told him to wait a year, then they moved out on the reservation where Dad had no chance in the world to associate with Mormons.

Liz: And learn about it. Probably just worked hard the rest of his life.

Weeks: He had his brothers there making fun of him saying he was just joining the church to get a wife and that made it hard. He was all so human and it was all so natural that you just can see how the whole thing happened. But they suffered, they really did, but this time when Mother came home and she had graduated and she was ready to teach her school and everything, why they went for a horseback ride and talked it over and they said that nothing in the world must separate them anymore. They got married and started a family. They had 14 children. Out of that 14, 10 stayed active in the church and the three boys and one girl became inactive. I don't know, I think that's a pretty good average.

Liz: Tell me about, I've been asking people about Christmas' in their lives, some of their happiest, some of their saddest, maybe a sad one or....

Weeks: One year our tree burned down. Our first Christmas' that I remember were down in Fruitland, of course, and Mother always got us some lovely little things. I remember, the first thing that I remember was a baby doll that was big, I had to really hold on to it, it was a big baby doll. At the same time, I got a little metal stove, an iron stove and it was full of little Qupee dolls. Out on the reservation, we would put our tree in the living room and we'd all meet in the dining room until time to go in and we would have a song and a prayer and Mother would read a part in the Bible, then we would march in around the tree and Dad was always the Santa Clause, he would hand out the gifts.

Liz: Would he dress up like Santa?

Weeks: No, he would just be Santa Clause. It was an exciting time. Christmas and birthdays. With all those 14 children, she never passed a birthday she didn't have a cake and a little party--that is we had a party, we didn't have to invite other people in for a party. When we partied...(laughs) but she did, she invited other people in all the time too, but we always had fun on birthdays. I remember after I was married, I went down there, I had gone home to visit, and Mother was just almost in tears. She couldn't have a party for Virginia that year, so I said I'd give her a party and I went out and took her down on the creek, Spring Creek they called it, and built a fire and cooked some hot dogs, (laughs) but it was a birthday for her and Mother appreciated it because she wasn't well enough to do it herself that year. The Christmas' at Vernal in the Kabell place were the special ones. Of course, we had the candles that were lit and they always have the tree. Mother would always have her sister and her six children and then after we got married, why we'd come home, Clair and I, and we would bring our children. So we had some grand times down there.

Liz: How many years did they live in that place?

Weeks: I don't just remember. I had three children before they moved out. The last Christmas we had, the tree caught on fire and they just about burned the place.

Liz: Oh dear. Did they have candles on it and they caught on fire?

Weeks: Yes.

Liz: How did you get it put out?

Weeks: Dad and the boys put it out. But it was a sad minute, I'll tell you. It was worry.

Liz: That's the first one I've heard. I've heard of candles on the trees, but I've never heard anyone say they remembered it catching on fire.

Weeks: That's the first one I've ever heard of too, because people were very careful.

Liz: They said they only burned them for a little while.

Weeks: Oh yes, you'd blow them out so you didn't take a chance. I think we went in to breakfast this time, if I remember, or something, and the smoke coming through the door. They got it out. When you raise that many children, your having lots of excitement for all kinds. Good things and bad things. Christmas was always an exciting time. Mother and Dad always, we had a lot of horseshoe games and ball games, that's when I learned not to tell a lie was in a ball game.

Liz: Tell us about it.

Weeks: They threw the ball at me, and if the ball hit me, why I was out. I was running to the base and they would hit me with the ball and I was out. They hit me on the heel of my shoe. I said that wasn't me, when Dad said, "Did the ball hit you, Jennie?" I said, "No." He didn't say anything, he never embarrassed his kids, but he did get over points. So on the way in, all of us going in to dinner that night, why he put his arm around me and he says, "Jennie, when you've got a shoe on that's part of you."

Liz: He let you know that...

Weeks: This is my son Noel.

Liz: Yes, I know Noel. You're not going out in this weather are you?

Weeks: He's supposed to go to a meeting.

Liz: You be careful.

Weeks: It was quite an adventure to be raised in a family of 14. School was one of the big problems. At night, Mother used to take the little children and hear their reading and Dad would study with the big kids. We had regular school out there, we had teachers. After we got into high school is when he helped us the most. He'd help kids with their algebra and things like that. Every night we had to have study hour. There wasn't all this running around to picture shows or watching television then, we studied.

Liz: You said that sometime you drove the Buick, did they ever get, I guess when did they start getting school buses and things where you could get a ride?

Weeks: We never did get school buses while we lived there.

Liz: So you had to come all that way by yourself on a horse or...

Weeks: We either had to ride a horse or drive a buggy or the car. I was the one that wrecked the car. I went to town one day and ran out of gas, and I knew the people that were just up a little ways had a telephone. I went in to call the Rog and have him come down and bring me some gas, and this man said, "Well, I've got some oil that I can put in for you and it'll get you to town." And he did, he put some corn oil in car. By the time I got it to town I'd burned out the engine, of course.

Liz: Why would he do that?

Weeks: Well, he didn't know any better. My dad, instead of getting a new engine and redoing the car, why he let it go.

Liz: What ever happened to it?

Weeks: I've often wished I'd known. Of course, he just took it to a garage and they drug it off, or he would probably have used it...they probably got the good out of it. In these car shows, I've gone out and hunted up a 1917 Buick, it would bring back so many memories. I used to think I had to have a special group, tie around my head and everything. I look back at it, it was something so funny. But it wasn't funny then, it was fun and not funny, just fun. And that makes a difference.

Liz: The thing, did they have hats that you'd tie on with a big bow?

Weeks: Yes, that wasit was kind of more of a cap.

Liz: That was to keep your hair from blowing when you were going. And how fast did you drive?

Weeks: We thought we were doing real well if we did 25. So you can imagine. When my dad brought us up from Fruitland to Vernal, there was so many of us we had to have two cars. He got a friend of his that wanted to see Vernal anyway, come with us, and we got into two bad storms between Colorado and Vernal. So that was bad.

Liz: What do you remember in Vernal during the Second World War? I know they used to have Red Cross Ladies and what did they do for the war effort?

Weeks: I try awfully hard not to think about that war and I never watch a picture show that shows that war. We had a lot of heartache and trouble and disappointments and everything that could happen, well did happen to all of America, happened to us in Vernal. The boys weren't coming home, some of them, and our young boys, just our young kids going, our son was 17 when he left.

Liz: What was his name?

Weeks: Otis. It was a bad, bad time. To make it worse, the oil people were coming in there right at that time. There was a lot of trouble and heartache that happened that wouldn't have happened if the boys had just gone out. But the girls were going too, they were joining too, you know. The older girls, the ones that were 18 and over kind of disappeared. So it left these young 16 year old girls in the community. It was almost as a prey to these men that were coming in for the oil fields and things like that. They didn't know how to handle situations like that. There was a lot of trouble and tribulation that didn't need to have happened but did happen because of that war, as well as losing our boys in the war. So, yes, they formed all kinds of Red Cross classes and things and they made crocheted things to send. They made socks and did all kind of things. I started a Marine Mothers Organization and they would meet and we'd send the boys out, marines letters and things and cans of cake and things to keep them interested. There were a lot of the boys that were lost.

Liz: I guess that all of the boys that went probably had experiences that changed their lives.

Weeks: A lot of them did, well you can't really go out and learn to, like my boy expressed it, he said, "They teach you to kill and then they bring you back and try to wipe it off your mind." He said, "You're not the same, you're never the same." The men, my dad was on the draft board, and the men felt that they should send them. They never hesitated, Vernal sent their full quota. You walk into the cemetery and you see that portion taken. But it's hard on everybody. The mothers, a lot of them were working, had come out to work on the airplanes and things. Bessie, and some of the younger teachers and people went into the government to try and help with keeping the things going in the government. She was an inspector for one of the projects.

Liz: Who was Bessie?

Weeks: Noel, my sister. All of them, all of the young girls, all of them tried to help out and to do and the mothers tried to help out and it just disrupted the schools, it disrupted the family life, churches. A war is a terrible, terrible thing and it had its affect here in Vernal as well as other places. They were proud of their boys.

Liz: I was talking to a young man in England. They would get on the tour and this lady would tell us what section had been bombed out and he said, "America really, we talked about the Second World War, but America really wasn't in it." And I said, "Well, in a way, we didn't have our cities bombed, but we had the death and we had all these problems that came from the war."

Weeks: We were in it.

Liz: We were in it.

Weeks: We weren't in it, but we were in it. Our effects, cause and effects were just as great and destroyed a lot of people besides the ones that were left in the field. It destroyed a lot of homes. I don't know, I just can't express my feelings about war and yet I have come, as I have gotten older, to realize that war for us isn't any worse than what nature goes through with the floods and fires and volcanoes and all these things. But the war for the human beings is like--what is the animal that when they get too populated run over a cliff and kill themselves? That's what we do.

Liz: Look at this abortion, we don't have a war now, but we are killing more human beings with abortion than has ever been killed in a war, and that's sad, it's murder.

Weeks: This is murder. Where we talk about the cannibals, this is worse than cannibalism because this is just waste, waste of what? The most precious thing on earth that we've got and the thing that we are cutting our own throat. If we was going to start killing somebody, we should have killed the grandpas and grandmas because the young children are the ones that would have carried on, and they're the ones, Elizabeth, the children of today have better minds, they are more intelligent than any group of people that was ever born.

Liz: I agree with that. It's almost frightening how they retain their knowledge and understanding of

things, they catch on really fast.

Weeks: Well, it tells you in Alma the 32nd chapter and the 23rd verse that the children will do things that will astonish the adults. I think that the intelligent spirits have been kept for this period, or else how could America have produced what America has in 300 short years when they had 2000 years before that, after Christ, to build up and do and invent. And it's all been done in the last 300 years. But look what they've done.

Liz: It's like they've wanted to progress. Other countries like England, I love to go to England, but it seems like it's about 100 years behind America, you know. In the countries in their customs and everything, seems like they've tried to keep themselves normal or, they're not like we're always trying to get better and better and better.

Weeks: We're trying too hard too fast. Maybe we're not, maybe this is part of the plan. This is the chosen land and these are the chosen people and they have come to us from the 12 tribes and it's for a purpose. So I have finally come to say, I won't question what the Lord's plan is, I'll accept it as it is and in doing that you have to accept war, you have to accept the effects of war.

Liz: You think what would have happened, though, if we hadn't defended ourselves and had Hitler take over the whole world.

Weeks: Hitler would never have taken over the whole world, he would have taken over that part of it, but he wasn't, it wasn't decreed that he should. This thing has happened, and they regulated the things with war before the world. In heaven, they regulated it with war. So we just have to accept it, but I, well like you say, this abortion thing and these divorces are worse than anything else that's ever happened to the world. Then this attitude of the parents that they are neglecting their children and their, my son that's teaching school, he said, "You can't imagine the last 10 years, the condition these children come to school in." He said they have no interest, the parents have no interest in whether they come to school or whether they don't come to school. Whether they come to school naked or whether they come to school in fancy clothes. He said it doesn't to them, the kids can do anything they want to do, and he said they're outlaws before they get to the 6th grade. He said it's wicked what's happening to the children. The picture shows, the television, are I think, part of the influence. I also think there's good comes out of the television, and we have our own free choice which one we look at. But I think it's destroying our young people's minds and making them not want to progress. We aren't teaching them to work and to study like we did, they

don't have to study, the superior children don't get a chance to study sometimes, the teachers are so concerned about the ones that are lagging behind that they don't give the superior children, don't keep them challenged, don't keep them growing, and it makes them so they get off on tangents. It's making me ill to see it happen. I'm glad that Utah, this year, became aware of what was happening in what the educational system was doing, and they are trying to change it. I hope they do, I hope they do because they've got some wonderful, wonderful people in here. I've been kind of interested in this little deal with the BYU being first. They say, "They can't be first, they didn't play the hardest teams, the class that has played the hardest teams is still being first. I think they'll have to let it be first."

Liz: Glade and I were mentioning it last night that about the last five quarterbacks from BYU are on professional ball teams, and are some of the best ones in the nation.

Weeks: They are the ones carrying them through.

Liz: Then there's a lot that aren't quarterbacks that are on these teams. They must be doing something to have all these exceptional men.

Weeks: That's another grief I have is that we're spending billions of dollars to watch a ball batted from one place to another that we could put into education, and I feel badly about that.

Liz: On the other hand, I think sports for men keep them from doing other things that may be less praiseworthy. It takes up their time and gives them something to look forward to.

Weeks: It would depend on the man, wouldn't it?

Liz: I suppose.

Weeks: The men that want to drink, they go there and drink, and the ones that don't, wouldn't no matter where they went. So I don't know, I think they've gone a little overboard. But my dad used to always say, "The pendulum has to swing clear to the other side before it comes back to the middle." And I think that we have in sports all these tremendous bowls they've built and money that's gone into sports the last 50 years is criminal.

Liz: Do you remember, talking about your dad saying things like that, it seems like the South is famous

for sayings. Do you remember some of those he used to say as he worked along or your mother maybe too, they'd say like "A stitch in time saves nine," or some of those?

Weeks: I can remember one that Mother used to say that has always stayed with me. That is, "You see people that are very impatient," my mother had the patience of Job. Talking with her about it one time, I asked her, "Where did you get all your patience?" She said, "Jennie, don't you know that it takes just as much energy to get mad as it does to solve a problem? If you could just start solving the problem with that energy, you don't have to be impatient." That has meant a lot to me, I have used it a lot in my own impatience, learned to think, "What should I do instead of..." oh I hate that!

Liz: Cause when you get upset, you really don't get any further, you just get upset and you can't think of what to do, rather than if you'd look at it...

Weeks: You go batting around and break things and slap kids and what's the use? You haven't accomplished anything, you've made it worse, you've frightened the child so maybe their creativeness has been destroyed. I was happy that she used to say that. I realized that it meant something, so I've tried to take a positive attitude about things. I've been interested in this positive attitude meeting that they have every year. These wealthy people that tell about how they should do. One man came in here two years ago and was talking about Utah, and he said, "I wonder if you people who live in Utah realize that you are a light hanging in a dark room, and he said you have light that the world needs. That was....

I was delighted the other night to hear them say that they are going to do more with the tar sands out there, because Vernal has over built, it's too big now. It doesn't have the things that can maintain it.

Liz: There are a lot of empty homes.

Weeks: All those buildings down by the creek. Who ever put up all those buildings? That was so unnecessary, but they are there. Then last night, they said that, this man from Canada had come into the tar sand area near Vernal and they probably will within two years have it in operation. So that will wake Vernal up again and make it come back alive.

Liz: Dave went up to a place in Canada called, I think it's Aclabaska, tar sands, and it's up in Canada so maybe this man is from that area.

Weeks: He has all kinds of confidence in Vernal in making a goal a success and get started on it.

Liz: I think what they should do, they have severance tax, they put severance tax on Utah oil, but I think they should exempt the oil shale and tar sands because it costs more to produce that kind of oil, and that would help to produce it and would have an advantage.

Weeks: And having people in and getting that many more jobs and everything will help, but still if they don't have that severance tax, they're going to loose, the state needs the severance tax, the people don't. They need the jobs and they'll bring in more jobs if they don't have any severance.

Liz: That's what I'm saying, if they don't have that severance, that would give them a 2-3 cent advantage. What we compete with is the oil in the world, in some places it's not this paraffin oil that we have, it's just flows right out, and we have to give it extra treatment to get it even out to where they can refine it. That costs more, then hauling out of the Basin, where we don't have a railroad is expensive. Now if we'd have a railroad come here, that would help, and maybe we will see one come. Someone suggested putting one from Vernal out to the desert generation plant where they've got the railroad and it's a standard gauge railroad already to Rangely. They could hook on to the 37 miles already done, so they could hook on to Rangely to Craig someway and we'd have one.

Liz: Well, that would be wonderful, but the very first thing in 1917 when we went in there, they were promising that there would be a railroad in five years.

Liz: Vernal Express is full of this promise where they would come and survey and everything, but they never did.

Weeks: No, they've never had enough out there to come for. Of course, they didn't know about tar sands and things then, they just had to develop it enough that they could see it would make a livelihood, so they didn't do it. It's too bad, because Vernal certainly...well, it has grown tremendously. I actually just wonder what made it grow as it has and when I see those beautiful homes up on the bench and down behind the hill that they've put up, they're almost like city homes. It's good, if they can maintain it, but there's a lot of people moving out right now. That's too bad. I can't understand why they're building another high school in this period of time. What in the world happened if they built a high school and didn't build it so it wouldn't take care of the situation.

Liz: But they've been putting band-aids on the high school for 15 years. You know, building those little

pre-fab buildings or whatever they are in the back. Really, they've just got, they're going to the junior high for a middle school, then they are going to use the present high school for the junior high then they'll move on over to the new area. They do need it, because there's the double sessions right now. And double sessions are very disruptive to family life.

Weeks: And they are hard on children.

Liz: They are hard on children. I just work four hours a day. Either I have to leave one child part of the time or the other to do that. I've had somebody there up to this point. But now that Sam's going to go on his mission, there won't be anyone there for a couple of, I'll have to change. I'm probably going to take the morning shift so I can be there with the younger ones in the afternoon, then I'll just have to depend on the junior high one to kind of go a little big on his own after breakfast. That's not good.

Weeks: When I started working in the social service work, I had a lady write a note to me, she didn't sign her name so I didn't know who it was, but she said, "I should think you'd be ashamed, I pass your house all the time and your son is sitting there alone." Well, he wasn't alone, there was someone in the house. I had a Mrs. Howell that was working in the house, he wasn't there alone, but she got the idea I was neglecting my child or really leaving without anyone else. It makes you think about those things. Then on the other hand, I have been sorry that I left the kids, I've wished I hadn't a lot. So I don't know.

Liz: The world is truly mixed up.

Weeks: When I started out raising kids, I thought I could just do it without any trouble and do a perfect job, and now that I'm 82 years old, I don't know. I wished I could do it over. Yet if I did it over, I don't know, you don't know what you know when you start out.

Liz: You do what you have to do when you have to do it or think it's best.

Weeks: And the Lord gave people their families when they were young, they make them 82 years old before they started out so they'd know how to raise them. It's hard for young people. They're just kids themselves and they try to decide things about kids and it's hard.

Liz: Isn't it though, I know what you mean. I've often told my children, after I had made a mistake that I had never been a parent before, never had this problem before. I think you have to admit that, I think

children used to think in the olden days that parents knew everything. Plus, parents didn't really admit that they didn't.

Weeks: I think that a lot of times, they'd think themselves they did. I don't know, it's hard to say. Well you haven't gotten much of a history.

Liz: I've just thought, well, we take off the historical part of it.

Weeks: Let's play it back a little bit and see what it's like.

Liz: I can probably turn it over.

Weeks: Oh is it about through?

Liz: It's just about through, would you want to bear your testimony to your grandchildren on it?

Weeks: It's the most sacred thing in the whole world, your testimony, isn't it? I'll tell you, Elizabeth, the Lord had been wonderfully good to me. In my patriarchal blessing, it says, "you will be given knowledge, hidden knowledge, even hidden knowledge to help you." And I have had. I've had some wonderful, wonderful testimonies. This boy that you saw walk out of here was, when he was six months old, had this, the small intestine slipped into the large one, and Dr. Francke in Vernal wouldn't even touch him. He said, "If you can get him to Salt Lake where they can operate, why they might save him." We got him to Salt Lake, Tom Karren drove us in there, he drove like a wild man. We got there and Dr. Richards operated on him, but he didn't give us any hope. He didn't even sew that boy up like he ought to. He just pulled him together. We had him there for two weeks and he was still alive, which was the doctor's amazement that he was. When we took him home, I said to the nurse, "Is this the only case they've had like this?" She said, "No, we've had four others." I said, "Well, how did they get along?" She said, "Well, we didn't want to tell you this, we lost all of them." They just hadn't saved a case like that before. The Lord preserved this boy and we spent the next 10 years just watching every breath he drew because he told us it could reoccur. But the Lord has been so good to me in so many ways. Even with my father, the attitude that my father had in this life. He was the most honest man in all the world, and a hard worker. He taught his children to be a gentleman instead of a prank and he was a wonderful person. But when I asked him after I grew up and knew more about it why he didn't join the church, he held his baptismal record in one hand and mine in the other. He says, "Jennie, I accept of your baptism,

why won't you accept of mine?" He just couldn't see, he said, "My mother was just as sincere as your mother is when she had me baptized." So I came out and talked to an apostle Ballard about it, he told me he said, "Sister Noel, don't worry your mind about it. Your father will someday hear the gospel. What people have done have been they've been sincere, they wanted to teach him. But he hasn't heard it." When Dad was in his casket, I told him goodbye and I said, "Dad, I'll help you, if you'll help me." So when the year was up I went to the temple and got his record and got him baptized, Lori was baptized for him. Then we had his

end